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Photo by Dave Starr.

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The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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*Fall 1988, Fort Dodge

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I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 715 West St., Colo, IA 50056).

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The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246):

- *Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.
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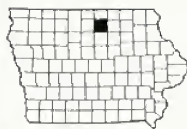
Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of De Soto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa.

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BIRDING THE WEST END OF CLEAR LAKE

JAMES L. HANSEN

Although Clear Lake itself is a 3,643-acre lake, the area around it is highly populated and offers limited access for birding. There are, however, several good public-owned birding areas at the west end near the town of Ventura. These areas are in western Cerro Gordo County, except for part of Ventura Marsh, which extends into Hancock County.



McIntosh Woods State Park is a 60-acre wooded and brushy area on the north side of Clear Lake. The park entrance is on Lake Street 1.0 miles east of S-14 in Ventura. Just past the Ranger's house there is a small marsh that can be checked from the east and south sides. The wooded area to the east has a self-guided interpretive trail and is a good spot for warblers and other woodland birds. The main road goes south to a boat ramp. Beyond the boat ramp, a long sandbar extends into the lake, providing a good viewing point for water birds. Occasionally a Pileated Woodpecker is seen flying between the park and timber on the south side of the lake.

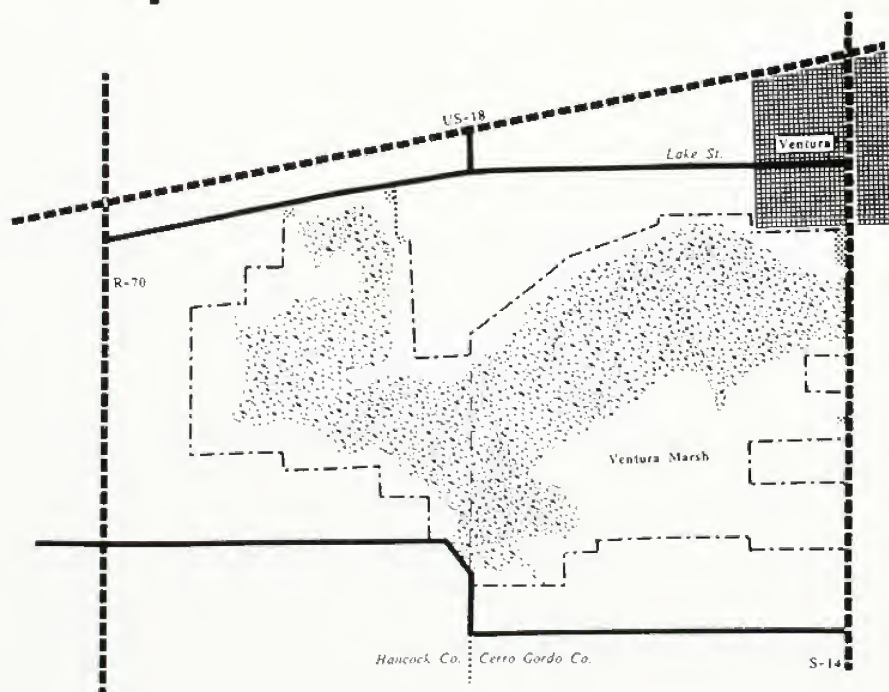
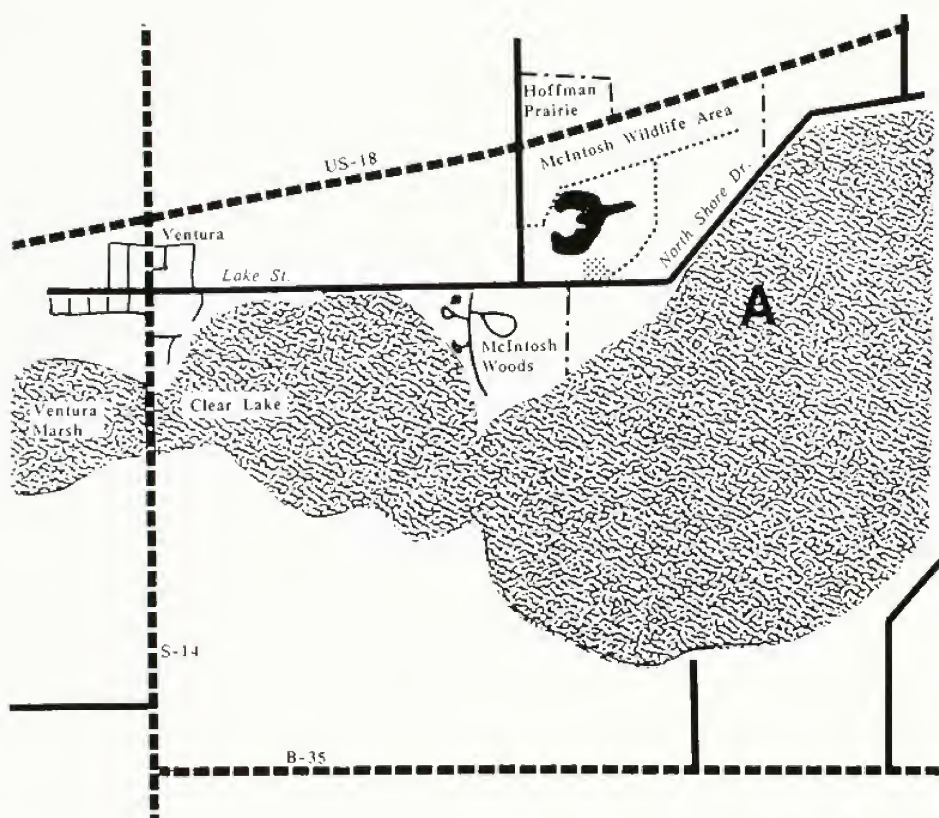
McIntosh Wildlife Area is a 220-acre Public Hunting Area that lies between U.S. Highway 18 and North Shore Drive (a continuation of Lake Street). The area is mostly grassland with fields of brome, alfalfa, and switchgrass. Except during occasional drought years, the 17-acre marsh on the west side of the area is good for ducks and wetland birds, including Yellow-headed Blackbird. There is an oak woods on the southeast corner of the area. McIntosh Wildlife Area is used for study of both game and nongame species, so birders should avoid colored flags used to mark nests and live traps used to capture predators.

The best access to the area is from a parking lot that lies 0.25 miles east of the entrance to McIntosh Woods State Park. One can scan the marsh from a car or walk the service road into the grassland, where Sedge Wren, Bobolink, and Dickcissel can be found.

To the east of the south parking lot, there are several pull-outs along the next 0.7 miles of North Shore Drive that border the area. From these locations one can walk into McIntosh Wildlife Area or view the lake. Yellow Warblers are found in the trees and brush at the east end, and Warbling Vireos can be heard in the large trees along the lake shore. Aerator holes (A) keep some water open when the rest of the lake is frozen. Waterfowl can be seen at these holes in late fall and early spring. (There is another aerator hole at the far east end of Clear Lake.)

Hoffman Prairie, an area owned by The Nature Conservancy and open to the public, lies north of McIntosh Wildlife Area and north of Highway 18.

Ventura Marsh is a 733-acre area immediately southwest of Ventura. The 450-acre marsh is bordered by upland area and separated from Clear Lake by Highway S-14 and a water-control structure. Most of the uplands are composed of grasslands that provide cover for nesting birds. Trees and brush line the edge of the marsh on the north and south. The large area on the south contains a 50-acre nesting study area surrounded by a predator-proof electric fence that would give a birder a good jolt when it is energized from late March to mid-July.



The best accesses to Ventura Marsh are on the east and northwest sides. The area of marsh on the south, which is mostly cattails with a few jack pines, is not very productive. A large parking lot and boat ramp located 0.2 miles south of Lake Street on Highway S-14 provides boat access to the marsh. A small parking lot 0.5 miles south of the large parking lot provides walking access to the largest area of uplands.

Access to the northwest areas are from parking lots 1.3 and 1.6 miles west of S-14 on Lake Street. The more westerly lot leads to uplands on the north side.

Birds found at Ventura Marsh include Sedge Wren, Bobolink, Yellow Warbler, and Willow Flycatcher. Over-water nesting species, best seen from a boat, include small colonies of Forster's and Black terns, Marsh Wren, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Nesting waterfowl include Canada Goose, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, and Wood Duck. Occasionally, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, and Redhead nest. Broods of Common Moorhen have been seen at the east end of the marsh. King Rail has been seen, but nesting has not been confirmed. American White Pelican is often present during migration.

103 S. 17th Street, Clear Lake, IA 50428

ESKIMO CURLEWS--A POSSIBLE RECOVERY

JAMES J. DINSMORE

Few species of birds have so captured the imagination of birders but have been more ignored than the Eskimo Curlew. Although it once was described as numbering in the millions, the Eskimo Curlew has been a rare bird for almost a century and has largely been written off as a species doomed to extinction. Because of this attitude, it has not been given nearly the attention that other rare North American birds like the Whooping Crane, California Condor, or Ivory-billed Woodpecker have received. Several recent sightings, including one in central Nebraska in April 1987 (Anon. 1987), leave open the hope that the species might recover and again become a viable part of the avifauna of North America. Since the bird once occurred in Iowa, it seems timely to reexamine some aspects of its biology and its occurrence in Iowa.

IDENTIFICATION

Three species of small curlews have been recorded in North America and could be confused. Besides the Eskimo Curlew, the other two are the Little Curlew and the Whimbrel. The Little Curlew, the Old World counterpart to the Eskimo Curlew, is considered by some ornithologists to be the same species as the Eskimo Curlew. The Whimbrel is more familiar, being a rare migrant in Iowa. For most birders, it is easy to identify a bird as a curlew but difficult to separate the three species. By all odds, any curlew that is seen in Iowa should be a Whimbrel. Several characteristics that are key to identifying these curlews are the pattern on the undersides of the primaries--unbarred in the Eskimo and Little curlews, barred in the Whimbrel; color of the wing linings--pale cinnamon in Eskimo Curlew, grayish in the Whimbrel, and buffy in the Little Curlew; stripe on the top of the head--missing or indistinct in the Eskimo Curlew, and distinct in the other two; and color of the base of the lower mandible--flesh colored or pink for less than half its length in the Eskimo Curlew, flesh colored or pink for more than half its length in the Little Curlew, and flesh colored in the Whimbrel (Gollop, Barry, and Iversen 1986).

ORIGINAL RANGE

The few actual Eskimo Curlew nests that have been described indicate that they nested on fairly dry tundra habitat in northern Northwest Territories and perhaps northern Alaska and Siberia. After the breeding season, most Eskimo Curlews moved east and south to northern Quebec and Labrador. There they fattened up on crowberries in preparation for their fall flight south. Some birds took a different route and moved south along the western shore of Hudson Bay. Whichever route they took, once the birds had stored up sufficient fat, they migrated south, apparently flying over water in a direct line from near the Gulf of St. Lawrence south to Venezuela and northern South America. This path took them east of New England, Bermuda, and most of the West Indies islands. In some years, storms over the Atlantic Ocean forced the birds toward the coast. These storm-related "wrecks" resulted in large flocks of curlews appearing along the coast, especially in New England and on Long Island. Once in South America, the curlews continued

south and wintered from southern Brazil and Uruguay south through Argentina and Chile. Little is known about their spring migration. They probably followed Central America north to the Yucatan Peninsula and then flew over the Gulf of Mexico to Texas and Louisiana. From the Gulf Coast, they moved north through the Mississippi Valley and the Great Plains (Gollop, Barry, and Iversen 1986). There are numerous records from Nebraska (Swenk 1916), suggesting that the curlews staged there before flying to their arctic nesting grounds. The curlew's loop-like migration path is similar to the pattern shown by Lesser Golden-Plover.

EXPLOITATION

Eskimo Curlews were considered a very good tasting bird, a factor certainly leading to the heavy hunting pressure that they received for much of the year. Because they were often very fat during migration, hunters often called them the doe bird or dough bird. Another factor leading to their decline was the ease with which they could be killed. Eskimo Curlews are fairly tame and, if one bird was wounded, the other members of the flock often returned to their fallen companion, making it easy for a hunter to shoot a number of individuals from one flock.

Besides sport hunting, Eskimo Curlews were killed by market hunters. Some writers have suggested that around 1880, as Passenger Pigeon numbers began to decline, market hunters may have considered the curlew as a suitable replacement for the pigeon and turned their attention to it. Although the number of Eskimo Curlews that were taken by market hunters did not approach the levels of the Passenger Pigeon kill, hunting undoubtedly had an effect on their decline.

One of the mysteries of the Eskimo Curlew is the rapidity of its decline. The easy answer is that it was a victim of over hunting. However, one writer points out that a decline of Eskimo Curlew numbers in spring was already apparent in the period 1875-1880, somewhat before market hunting became important. Nesting failures or habitat loss have also been considered but dismissed due to the lack of any strong supporting evidence. One interesting idea that has been suggested is that long-term climatic changes may have led to catastrophic losses of curlews on their fall migration (Banks 1977). Whatever happened, it happened rapidly and no explanation has been completely accepted.

RECENT RECORDS

From the days of great abundance in the mid-1800s, Eskimo Curlew numbers declined rapidly, and by 1900 they were a rare bird. By 1920, there were only a handful of birds being seen, and the species was considered in danger of extinction. Gollop, Barry, and Iversen (1986) summarize records from 1945 to 1985. Over that time, Eskimo Curlews were reported with some authenticity in 25 of 41 of the years. Most of these reports were of one or two birds but in 1981, there was a probable sighting of an amazing 23 Eskimo Curlews near Galveston, Texas (Blankinship and King 1984). If the identification was correct, it gives some support to the idea that the bird might have a chance of surviving. The one seen last year in Nebraska (Anon. 1987) is the first one reported from the Midwest since 1926.

ESKIMO CURLEWS IN IOWA

Very little is known about Eskimo Curlews in Iowa. They were strictly a spring migrant in Iowa with the six recorded dates ranging from 5 April to 3 May (Dinsmore et al. 1984). The species undoubtedly was a common to abundant spring migrant and probably was more common in western Iowa.

Recently, I have located several articles on hunting that briefly discuss Eskimo Curlews. Several of these mention that the curlews typically were found with flocks of Lesser Golden-Plover, a species that then was perhaps the most numerous shorebird in North America. Both species preferred upland habitats, with burned prairies being especially favored. There they gathered to feed on insects. These flocks of shorebirds attracted the attention of hunters. John Smith of Algona recalled that he saw thousands of curlews in northwest Iowa in May 1866. He said that they occurred there only in spring, but they were not fat enough then to be good eating. He said that the curlews were easily attracted to golden plover decoys (Hough 1901). Smith said that large flocks were still found near Algona in the 1870s (Anon. 1910). Dick Harker, a market hunter from the Spirit Lake area, recalled that the Eskimo Curlew had delicious meat. He arrived in Spirit Lake in 1881 and said he killed thousands of golden plovers but only 12-15 dough birds in his lifetime, suggesting he arrived after they had greatly declined in numbers in Iowa (Musgrove 1945). By 1889, they were almost gone from the Manson area (H.A.K. 1889). A guide to hunting sites lists Lake Mills in northcentral Iowa as a place where one could hunt curlews but no other details are given (Hallock 1877). Other than these references, all that is known about the species in Iowa is from a few specimen records. The last record of the species is one taken at Davenport in May 1901 (Hodges 1950).

Somehow, despite a perilously long migration and heavy persecution, this species has managed to survive. In addition, one has to wonder how the handful of survivors manage to find each other on the breeding grounds. The survival chances for this species still are probably low. We know so little about the birds that we cannot even monitor their numbers. All we can do now is speculate on what happened in the past and hope that the future is brighter for this remarkable bird.

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PURPLE MARTIN FEEDS HOUSE SPARROWS

RICHARD J. HOLLIS

On several occasions during the summer of 1986 I observed a male Purple Martin feed immature House Sparrows. This observation is described and discussed in the larger context of birds feeding young that are not their own. Similar unusual martin feeding behavior has been noted by Brown (1977b) and Van Velzen (1960).

OBSERVATIONS

The martin house was a six apartment aluminum house (Heath) located in a suburban yard, bordering farmland, in eastern Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa. A pair of Purple Martins appeared at the martin house on 12 May 1986.

The male was a subadult and differed from the female as follows. The throat and chin of the female were light gray or white and did not contrast with the belly. The forehead of the female was light gray, almost white. In the male all of these regions were dark gray, speckled with the blue-purple of the adult male. This is a late date for adult martins to arrive at a colony, but perhaps not late for subadults to start a new colony. There were no other martins living at the house, but one or two pair of House Sparrows were present.

The martins arrived together and three days later settled into one apartment, forcibly evicting a pair of House Sparrows. Shortly thereafter, a pair of House Sparrows, possibly the same birds that had been nesting in the apartment taken over by the martins, moved into an adjacent compartment that had been previously vacant. Simultaneous arrival of a pair of martins contrasts with normal martin behavior. Usually males arrive first and settle into an apartment. The females then arrive and choose a male-apartment combination (Harrison 1975).

From 14 May until 3 June the martins worked at modifying the nest, discarding old material and carrying some new material in. Both shared the apartment at night. During the day, both were absent for long periods of time, often arriving at the house together. From 3 to 20 June the female spent more and more time at the nest. Sometime in the next week or two, the male seemed to stop spending the night. I suspected that she was incubating eggs during this period. Based on the published incubation period of 15-18 days, I expected hatching would occur around 19-22 June. On about 21 June the behavior of both parents changed. She was seen carrying a butterfly to nest, but later left still carrying it. The male also carried food to the house.

During the proposed incubation period, young hatched in the adjacent sparrow's nest. From 22 June to 27 June the male martin fed the nestling sparrows, sometimes just at the entrance and at other times totally entering the apartment. The sparrows at times chased the male away; at other times the male would chase the sparrows from the porch outside of their apartment. The female martin almost always came out of the nest when the male arrived to feed his new charges. She would often chirp. On one occasion she pecked at him, pushed him out of the way, and physically prevented him from feeding the sparrows. She then crawled into the sparrows' nest and

spent a long time in the nest. I did not see the young sparrows for a day or two. Both sparrows and the male martin continue to carry food to the sparrow nest, and a few days later the young sparrows reappeared.

The female martin was not seen at the nest at all on 27 June. On that same day, a house sparrow was seen going into the martin apartment for the first time since 12 May. In the evening I lowered the house. There were no eggs, egg fragments, or young in the martins' apartment, but leaves and other materials typically found in martin houses were present. Three fledgling-sized sparrows were in the other apartment and they were destroyed. I was, therefore, unable to observe if the martin would continue feeding the sparrows after they fledged. No martins nested at the apartment in 1987.

The observations were made at distances of 30 feet and less with binoculars and spotting scope. Observers included the author, Janet Hollis, and Orville Keefer.

DISCUSSION

Many species of birds have been observed feeding young that are not their own. There are at least four categories into which we may classify the causes of this behavior: shared nests, helpers, brood parasitism, and interspecific feeding. Perhaps the least familiar categories are those in which a bird feeds young of its species, but not its own offspring (shared nests and helpers).

Shared nests refers to birds that feed conspecific young when more than one female lays eggs in a single nest. Shared nests are not common with North American species. Emlen (1952) reported some cases of Cliff Swallows being forced to share a nest; presumably the adults sometimes fed the young of the other pair.

Helpers refers to nonbreeding birds that feed young of their species. The helpers are often offspring from an earlier nesting or close relatives of the parents (Skutch 1961, 1987). Skutch describes this for a number of species, including two members of the *Hirundinidae* (European Barn Swallow and House Martin). Sappington (1977) observed helpers at 161 of 254 (63.4%) of House Sparrow nests.

Brood parasitism refers to birds laying their eggs in another bird's nest. This is probably the most often observed situation in which birds are observed feeding young that are not their own. Brood parasites typically lay their eggs in the nests of other species and depend on the parental drives of their victims being stronger than their victims' ability to recognize their own young or eggs. The Brown-headed Cowbird is the most common North American brood parasite, but several other species, including the Redhead, are occasional brood parasites. Brood parasitism sometimes happens within a species, although it is much harder to recognize. Intraspecific brood parasitism has been noted in up to 24 percent of Cliff Swallow nests in colonies of over ten nests (Brown 1984).

Interspecific feeding refers to birds feeding young that are not their own and have not hatched from their own nests. This phenomenon is rare, but more interesting in terms of the light shed on parental drives. Shy (1982) lists 140 cases of interspecific feeding and suggests a number of causes. My observations of martins fits several of Shy's causes: nest failure, proximity of nests, and stimulation by the young.

One can speculate that interspecific feeding by the male martin occurred because he had a strong drive to feed young. His own nest had produced no young. Many times when he did return to the nest, he heard the begging call of the young sparrows. His drive was then released as he fed the sparrows who readily accepted the food. Another contributing factor could be the tendency of House Sparrows to accept help. The high rate of intraspecific helpers observed by Sappington suggests that neither nestlings nor their parents are especially discriminating as to who carries food to the nest.

Although Purple Martins are readily observed at their nests, and frequently nest near House Sparrows and European Starlings, there are few published observations of interspecific feeding by or of martins. After the apparent death of a brood of martins, young starlings moved from an adjacent compartment into the martin nest and were fed by both martins (Van Velzen 1960). Brown (1977b) also saw unusual feeding behavior in martins. A male fed his mate throughout the incubation period, a very rare occurrence in martins. Late during the incubation, a near-fledged House Sparrow moved into the martin nest (containing the female and eggs) and was fed until it flew away; then the male martin resumed feeding the female. Both male martins described by Brown and myself were subadult males. Van Velzen made no mention of plumage.

Young martins have not been observed being fed by House Sparrows. Brown (1977a) has observed a pair of Starlings feeding a nest of young martins. These nestling martins were still being fed by their own parents (subadults). Brown suggests a relationship between the previous destruction of a starling nest and eggs in the martin house and this foster feeding.

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YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD NESTING IN IOWA: A TWENTY-YEAR FOLLOW-UP

MIKE BROWN

The geographic distribution of the Yellow-headed Blackbird, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*, in Iowa was studied in the period 1960-1962 (Weller 1969). Weller found it easy to determine the distribution of breeding Yellow-headed Blackbirds because of their bright coloration, conspicuous territorial behavior, and dependence on semipermanent marshes for breeding habitat. Weller's observations were made during a period when he felt marsh conditions were optimal for Yellow-headed Blackbird.

In an attempt to detect any changes in distribution since 1960-1962, I determined the presence of Yellow-headed Blackbirds during the period 1983-1984 at the same 27 sites studied by Weller. Conditions were good for Yellow-headed Blackbirds during 1983-1984, because water levels were relatively high during May and June of both years. Each site was visited one or more times during the breeding seasons of 1983 and/or 1984. Six of the sites were visited by other observers. A site was considered to have an active breeding colony if at least one territorial male was observed.

Twenty-four of the 27 breeding colonies listed by Weller were active more than 20 years later (Table 1). Of the 20 active colonies that I visited, at least 20 territorial males were observed at each site. At least one nest was found at each site, except for three that were not closely examined. Cardinal Marsh was dry during the 1983-1984 breeding seasons. Little Wall Lake had been dredged into a deeper recreational lake and no longer contained marsh habitat. At Blue, Decatur, and Bend Lakes, Yellow-headed Blackbirds were present only at Blue Lake in 1984.

The majority of Iowa colonies and marsh habitats are found on the Wisconsin glacial lobe (Weller 1969), which is the prairie pothole region in the northcentral portion of the state. Dinsmore et al. (1984) list the Yellow-headed Blackbird as a common summer resident that is one of the most abundant birds in its habitat. I found nest densities to be very high with more than 50 nests per ha in some locations. During 1983-1984, I found Yellow-headed Blackbirds at 28 of 30 marshes where I was doing research (Brown 1985). I also observed breeding colonies at 44 other sites on the Wisconsin glacial lobe during the same period. Breeding Yellow-headed Blackbirds were observed in marshes as small as 0.2 ha and in relatively isolated marshes (no marsh habitat within a 5 km radius).

Changes in water depth and vegetation structure are common in Iowa marshes (Weller and Spatcher 1965). Yellow-headed Blackbirds adapt to these changes; they may abandon a site when conditions are unfavorable and recolonize the same site as conditions improve (Lederer 1978, Weller and Spatcher 1965). The persistence of 24 out of 27 colonies over more than 20 years suggests that Iowa's Yellow-headed Blackbird population is fairly stable. Population decreases may be expected during dry periods with increases during wet periods. Obviously, the quantity of suitable marsh habitat, which has been considerably reduced over the last 100 years (Bishop 1981), will also determine the future status of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Iowa (Weller 1979).

Table 1. 1983-84 Status of Yellow-headed Blackbird Colonies Observed by Weller in 1960-62

| Location | County | 1983-1984 Status |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Muskrat Slough | Jones | Present |
| Swan Lake | Johnson | Absent |
| Cardinal Marsh | Howard | Absent (marsh dry) |
| Elk Creek | Worth | Present |
| Ventura Marsh | Cerro Gordo | Present |
| Eagle Lake | Hancock | Present |
| East and West Twin Lakes | Hancock | Present |
| Twin Sisters Lake | Wright | Present |
| Elm Lake | Wright | Present |
| Wall Lake | Wright | Present |
| Goose Lake | Hamilton | Present |
| Little Wall Lake | Hamilton | Absent (no marsh vegetation) |
| Pothole (Tiegs) | Story | Present |
| Union Slough | Kossuth | Present |
| Silver Lake | Dickinson | Present |
| Spirit Lake | Dickinson | Present |
| Dan Green Slough | Clay | Present |
| Trumbull Lake | Clay | Present |
| Round Lake | Clay | Present |
| Rush Lake | Palo Alto | Present |
| Sunken Grove Lake | Pocahontas | Present |
| South Twin Lake | Calhoun | Present |
| Goose Lake | Greene | Present |
| Pothole (Finn) | Greene | Present |
| Storm Lake | Buena Vista | Present |
| Brown's Lake | Woodbury | Present |
| Blue, Decatur, and Bend Lakes | Monona | Present (Blue L. only) |

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 1987

W. ROSS SILCOCK

The 1987 count was made up of the same 41 locations which reported last year, but the return of Swaledale raised the total to a record-tying 42. These locations are well-distributed around the state, although there are gaps centered on Kossuth, Lyon, and Cass Counties. The number of observers (596) was the lowest in seven years, but only slightly lower than the 600 in 1980. The accompanying tables show the count data.

Weather conditions for this year's count were remarkably similar to those of 1986. The average temperature was 25.3 F, only 1.3 degrees lower than last year. Over the last 10 years, the mean temperature for all counts averaged 21.1 F, with a high average of 35.8 in 1983 and a low average of 2.4 in 1984. Strangely, in both of the extreme years, the number of species found was near the low for the 10-year period (114 in 1983 and 111 in 1984). Average wind speed for all counts was a moderate 7.5 mph, with few counts reporting significantly windy conditions.

A total of 124 species was recorded this year, second highest in the last 10 years, behind the record 127 found in 1981. The top species count this year was 81 at Davenport. Surprisingly, Shenandoah was second with 79, followed by Keokuk (77) and Rathbun (74). The only other counts in the 70s were Omaha and Burlington, each with 70. These locations are all near the southern reaches of the Mississippi or Missouri rivers and are all well-organized and stocked with experienced birders. Some otherwise excellent counts are still ignoring a very important winter habitat--the bird feeder. Perhaps more important than species diversity is finding the maximum number of each species. This is achieved generally with large numbers of observers (other factors being equal).

COUNT RESULTS BY REGION

Mississippi River counts were led by Davenport, and were generally about normal for species and numbers of birds. An exception was the 53,189 birds at Keokuk, boosted by the usual midwinter crow roost (22,000 this year) and, amazingly, 12,324 Canvasbacks. Keokuk is recognized as a major staging area for this species in the North American interior. The most northerly Mississippi River counts, Yellow River Forest and Dubuque, were hampered by the only significant snow (16 and 12 inches) and cold temperatures (-16 to start at Yellow River Forest) reported for the entire state, but the 47 species at Yellow River Forest was still an excellent total.

Missouri River counts again found the most birds, primarily because of a blackbird roost at Omaha (actually in Iowa near the IPL Ponds) containing an estimated 187,000 Red-winged Blackbirds and 22,000 European Starlings. Average numbers of Snow Geese and Mallards were found this year. The top count was Shenandoah with a large total of 79, primarily due to a virtually complete waterfowl list. All counts were at or above 50 species. Sioux City was at 55, a very good total for the northernmost count on the Missouri River. Trailing the field was Tristate, which appears to have tailed off in social status, nary a brown-bag lunch to be seen!

The Northern Third, where brown bag lunches are surely in evidence, generally did well, with most counts in the expected 40+ range. As expected, bird numbers were the lowest in the state, although Spirit Lake found over 7,000 birds, including a surprising 3,370 Canada Geese. Cherokee and Mason City also did well, although most of their birds were House Sparrows, but with 1,374 Mallards at Mason City. The top species count in this region (45) was shared by Mason City and Decorah.

Most of the state's observers live in the Middle Third, and over one-third of the count localities are there also. Species totals varied widely, from only 21 to the high of 66 at Des Moines, but more than two-thirds of the counts found more than 45 species. Other good species totals were the 61 at Jamaica and Cedar Rapids. These three counts are always well-run and well-attended. Des Moines found a great total of 18,371 birds, ranking 5th in the state, behind Keokuk and three Missouri River counts. The Des Moines total was enhanced by good numbers of Mallards (7,500) and Common Mergansers (3,035), as well as Herring Gulls (2,020). Jamaica did well due to 7,201 Mallards, while Cedar Rapids, as always, had a well-balanced count bolstered by several feeder-watchers.

The Southern Third, other than the excellent 74 species at Rathbun, did rather poorly, ranging from 35 to 47 species. The obvious advantage Rathbun has is the variety of habitat. Surprisingly, Red Rock found more birds than Rathbun, led by 7,000 Herring Gulls (only 56 at Rathbun!) and 3,514 Common Mergansers (only 436 at Rathbun). Perhaps this area of the state has so much good birding habitat in a mild winter that the birds are hopelessly spread out, with none of the concentration at "good spots" that are seen in colder parts of the state. Hitting these "good spots" is the main strategy in locations where such concentrations occur.

A few other snippets: lowest bird total was 785 at Sac County; most observers was 37 at Omaha, fewest was 3 at Alleman and Cedar Falls. Note, however, that Cedar Falls found a tremendous 56 species, 4th out of 15 counts in the Middle Third. Most field parties was 13 at Boone County and Omaha, and most party-hours was 119 at Omaha. Most miles by car was 670 at Rathbun; fewest was 28 at Lucas (that doesn't even get you across the circle and back!). Most miles on foot was 57 at Omaha, followed closely by 56 at North Linn. The most active owlers were at Davenport, with 7 hours in the dark, and most active (?) feeder-watchers were at Spirit Lake, with 61 hours of observation. Many counts had no feeder-watcher. Windiest count was De Soto N.W.R., but perhaps the worst weather was at Marshalltown, which had rain and sleet. Several counts encountered rain (in Iowa in winter?), but only at Spirit Lake was birding going on while it was snowing.

REGULAR SPECIES

This was a great year for waterfowl and other water-related birds and also raptors, obviously because of the weather conditions. Few other groups, however, showed outstanding numbers, except for some of the native sparrows and Carolina Wren. At the low end of the scale were Red-headed Woodpecker and American Robin (more later).

Somewhat surprisingly, fewer Great Blue Herons appeared this year than in 1986, the 18 found were about average. Also surprising was the below-average number of Snow Geese for such a mild count period. Canada Geese by

contrast were at double their 10-year average, and continue to do well. Dabbling ducks did not show up very well, with only Gadwall occurring in unexpected numbers; the 122 found were far more than the previous high of 43 in 1986. Gadwall is doing well nationwide. Mallard numbers were only average. The headline story this year has to be the diving ducks. Of the 10 expected species, 8 set new 10-year highs, some by substantial margins. Obviously best was Canvasback, with 12,000 at Keokuk helping this year's count of 13,550 make the previous high of 341 in 1986 suffer badly by comparison. Also remarkable was Common Merganser, the total of 11,879 dwarfing the 10-year average of 2,062. Others in outstanding numbers were Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, and Ruddy Duck, all at 10-year highs. Also up, but not as significantly, was Lesser Scaup. Open water was the obvious reason for this plethora. At the opposite extreme, although expectedly so, was Red-breasted Merganser, a mild-weather merganser, which was actually down in numbers from its 10-year average; only 11 were recorded. This is a rare bird in Iowa at CBC time.

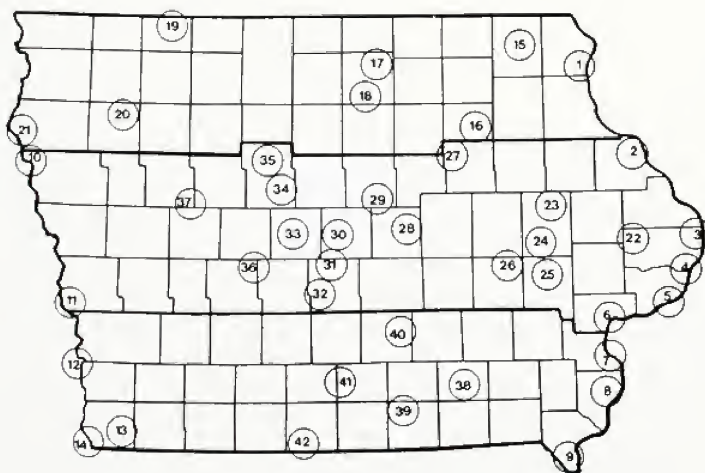
It was also a very good raptor year, with four species at 10-year highs, probably because of suitable hunting conditions resulting from lack of snow cover and open water retaining the waterfowl needed by Bald Eagle. Bald Eagle was found in record numbers (1037), and Red-tailed Hawk was at a 10-year high (1,105). In many parts of Iowa our National Symbol is the most common winter raptor. American Kestrel was found in good numbers, with a 10-year high of 515. The total of 68 accipiters was also a 10-year high, but only slightly above the totals in 1984 and 1985. Goshawk numbers were down to 4 from the peak years of 1984 (11) and 1985 (17). Identified Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks have shown a 1:1 ratio for two years now, since details have been requested for identification of these species. Only 31 of the accipiters reported were satisfactorily identified, which is expected due to the difficulty of identification when only a brief glimpse is usually afforded. Identification is, however, best made of flying birds. Look for prominence of head, total body length versus wing length, and tail shape.

Gallinaceous birds are always interesting, this year being no exception. The Wild Turkey story continues to amaze me, with a new high set each year; no fewer than 782 were counted, compared to the 1986 high of 313. They are now found in all areas of Iowa, although they are least common in the Northern Third, where they were reported only from Decorah and Bremer County. Notable also is the southern spread of Gray Partridge, a species which had a 10-year high of 586 birds and was reported from all regions except the Southern Third; however, it was found as far south as Oakville on the Mississippi River and Shenandoah on the Missouri River. Perhaps the increasing set-a-side of farm ground will cause birds from northern Iowa to spread as farmed land is reduced.

As expected this year, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, and Belted Kingfisher were in good numbers; indeed, all were at 10-year highs by substantial margins. These four species fit into a group whose occurrence is related to open water. Gulls were also up strongly, the 8,286 Herrings being about triple the previous 10-year high. Ring-billed Gull numbers, however, were below the 10-year high set in 1986.

Table 1. Count Data

| Table 1. Count Data | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|-------|-------------|------|-------|-----|-------|-----|-----|------|--------|-----|---------|-----------|------|-------|----------------------|--|
| Location | Date | Spec. | Totals | | Field | | Miles | | Owl | | Feeder | | Temp. F | | Snow | Wind | Sky | |
| | | | Birds | Obs. | Pts. | Hz. | Car | Ft. | Hz. | Pts. | Hz. | Low | High | a.m./p.m. | | | | |
| MISSISSIPPI RIVER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Yellow R.F. | 1 Jan | 47 | 4,735 | 11 | 5 | 36 | 256 | 14 | 2 | . | . | -16 | 21 | 16 | S | 5-15 | clear | |
| 2. Dubuque | 2 Jan | 42 | 4,223 | 13 | 8 | 47 | 206 | 24 | 1 | 6 | 19 | -10 | 19 | 12 | SW | 5-15 | clear | |
| 3. Clinton | 2 Jan | 65 | 7,334 | 13 | 5 | 45 | 450 | 13 | 5 | . | . | 1 | 30 | 4 | SW | 5-12 | clear | |
| 4. Princeton | 21 Dec | 62 | 7,496 | 8 | 4 | 32 | 322 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 22 | 38 | 6 | NW | 5-10 | clear | |
| 5. Davenport | 20 Dec | 81 | 16,899 | 23 | 8 | 66 | 471 | 23 | 7 | 19 | 57 | 28 | 35 | 4 | NW | 5-18 | partly cloudy/clear | |
| 6. Muscatine | 26 Dec | 68 | 10,397 | 9 | 4 | 36 | 398 | 16 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 22 | 26 | 4 | NW | 5-12 | cloudy/partly cloudy | |
| 7. Oakville | 17 Dec | 57 | 7,151 | 8 | 3 | 20 | 175 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 30 | 9 | SE | 2-6 | clear | |
| 8. Burlington | 19 Dec | 70 | 10,125 | 8 | 3 | 38 | 128 | 42 | 2 | 4 | 16 | 34 | 40 | 7 | SE | 5-10 | cloudy, rain | |
| 9. Keokuk | 2 Jan | 77 | 53,189 | 14 | 6 | 62 | 305 | 21 | 2 | 6 | 20 | 19 | 38 | 0 | N | 5-10 | clear | |
| MISSOURI RIVER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10. Sioux City | 26 Dec | 55 | 14,455 | 19 | 8 | 59 | 243 | 39 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 36 | 0 | . | 0-5 | clear | |
| 11. DeSoto NWR | 3 Jan | 63 | 77,839 | 36 | 7 | 65 | 526 | 25 | 1 | . | . | 13 | 27 | 0 | NW | 15-25 | clear | |
| 12. Omaha NE | 26 Dec | 70 | 219,608 | 37 | 13 | 119 | 620 | 57 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 15 | 37 | 1 | . | 0-0 | clear/partly cloudy | |
| 13. Shenandoah | 29 Dec | 79 | 60,717 | 9 | 5 | 38 | 404 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 20 | 24 | 1 | SE | 5-10 | cloudy | |
| 14. Tristate | 20 Dec | 50 | 10,140 | 5 | 2 | 17 | 203 | 3 | 1 | . | . | 25 | 37 | 0 | NW | 0-10 | clear | |
| NORTHERN THIRD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15. Decorah | 26 Dec | 45 | 4,868 | 14 | 5 | 35 | 310 | 13 | 2 | . | . | 6 | 27 | 4 | S | 0-5 | clear | |
| 16. Bremer Co. | 19 Dec | 42 | 2,591 | 4 | 2 | 16 | 102 | 10 | 1 | . | . | 31 | 34 | 3 | SE | 5-8 | rain | |
| 17. Mason City | 19 Dec | 39 | 5,332 | 16 | 6 | 47 | 234 | 17 | 2 | . | . | 30 | 35 | 1 | SE | 5-10 | rain | |
| 18. Swaledale | 29 Dec | 26 | 1,810 | 8 | 3 | 16 | 96 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 28 | 20 | 28 | 10 | NW | 0-5 | cloudy, mist | |
| 19. Spirit Lake | 19 Dec | 42 | 7,056 | 10 | 6 | 44 | 214 | 20 | . | 22 | 61 | 24 | 33 | 0 | SW | 3-7 | light rain/snow | |
| 20. Cherokee | 20 Dec | 45 | 5,175 | 14 | 6 | 49 | 363 | 15 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 22 | 39 | 0 | W | 10-20 | clear | |
| 21. Westfield | 3 Jan | 42 | 2,416 | 9 | 4 | 28 | 163 | 21 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 23 | 3 | NW | 0-20 | clear | |
| MIDDLE THIRD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22. Lost Nation | 18 Dec | 50 | 6,534 | 13 | 4 | 31 | 320 | 12 | 1 | . | . | 18 | 28 | 10 | NW | 5-15 | cloudy/rain | |
| 23. North Linn | 26 Dec | 55 | 4,059 | 17 | 9 | 78 | 460 | 56 | 5 | 3 | 16 | 8 | 20 | 2 | NW | 2-10 | clear | |
| 24. Cedar Rapids | 19 Dec | 61 | 9,066 | 27 | 11 | 79 | 407 | 30 | 3 | 27 | 48 | 34 | 38 | 4 | S | 0-5 | rain | |
| 25. Iowa City | 19 Dec | 56 | 10,525 | 34 | 9 | 59 | 431 | 23 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 32 | 35 | 3 | . | 0-0 | rain | |
| 26. Amana | 3 Jan | 47 | 1,374 | 10 | 2 | 14 | 80 | 9 | 1 | . | . | 24 | 30 | 2 | W | 5-10 | clear/partly cloudy | |
| 27. Cedar Falls | 20 Dec | 56 | 4,205 | 3 | 2 | 18 | 154 | 11 | 2 | . | . | 22 | 31 | 3 | W | 12-20 | clear | |
| 28. Marshalltown | 19 Dec | 40 | 3,766 | 16 | 5 | 36 | 324 | 2 | . | 6 | 40 | 34 | 34 | 0 | SE | 13-15 | rain/sleet | |
| 29. Eldora | 23 Dec | 42 | 3,099 | 6 | 3 | 27 | 286 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 28 | 38 | 2 | SE | 8-18 | partly cloudy | |
| 30. Ames | 19 Dec | 47 | 11,691 | 33 | 11 | 61 | 337 | 44 | 2 | 9 | 38 | 33 | 37 | 1 | NW | 0-10 | rain | |
| 31. Altaman | 29 Dec | 33 | 4,197 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 73 | 1 | 1 | . | . | 19 | 25 | 3 | . | 0-0 | cloudy | |
| 32. Des Moines | 26 Dec | 65 | 18,371 | 10 | 4 | 39 | 215 | 19 | 1 | . | . | 16 | 32 | 0 | NW | 0-7 | clear/partly cloudy | |
| 33. Boone County | 1 Jan | 52 | 7,033 | 29 | 13 | 63 | 376 | 42 | 1 | 7 | 35 | -4 | 20 | 4 | NW | 0-10 | clear | |
| 34. Lehigh | 2 Jan | 31 | 1,132 | 11 | 6 | 17 | 36 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 12 | 12 | 32 | 3 | S | 5-10 | clear | |
| 35. Fort Dodge | 3 Jan | 29 | 2,122 | 6 | 5 | 16 | 76 | 8 | 1 | 27 | 48 | 10 | 20 | 5 | NW | 5-20 | clear | |
| 36. Jamaica | 22 Dec | 61 | 12,217 | 9 | 4 | 33 | 350 | 14 | 4 | . | . | . | 28 | 0 | SW | 5-15 | clear | |
| 37. Sac County | 19 Dec | 21 | 785 | 10 | 5 | 36 | 90 | 22 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 32 | 38 | 1 | SW | 5-15 | rain/partly cloudy | |
| SOUTHERN THIRD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 38. Ottumwa | 26 Dec | 35 | 2,877 | 7 | 4 | 32 | 156 | 10 | . | . | . | 20 | 30 | 1 | NW | 5-10 | partly cloudy/clear | |
| 39. Rathbun | 19 Dec | 74 | 13,653 | 23 | 9 | 78 | 670 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 30 | 38 | 40 | 4 | S | 0-5 | rain | |
| 40. Red Rock | 20 Dec | 47 | 14,931 | 20 | 9 | 36 | 150 | 10 | . | 4 | 13 | 25 | 37 | 5 | SW | 10-15 | clear | |
| 41. Lucas | 19 Dec | 36 | 2,844 | 15 | 7 | 40 | 28 | 12 | . | . | . | 34 | 35 | 1 | E | 0-5 | rain | |
| 42. Lamoni | 26 Dec | 36 | 2,510 | 6 | 3 | 18 | 135 | 2 | . | . | . | 20 | 32 | 0 | NE | 0-5 | clear | |
| TOTAL | | | 659,058 596 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



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| | 6 | 2 | 8 | - | 116 | 56 | 3 | 15 | - | - | - | 197 | 54 | - | 1 | 3 | 1 | - | 24 | - | 2 | - | 20 | - | 23 | - | 542 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|----|------|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-------|------|-----|-------|----|------|----|----|-----|-------|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|-----|---------|----|------|------|---|-------|
| 14 38 10 29 | 1 | 270 | 229 | 18 | 1 | 32 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 32 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1397 | 288 | 1271 | - | 31 | 3 | - | 1085 | 1 | - | 6 | 35 | 2 | 13 | 2 | 65 | 1 | 314 | 1853 | | | | | |
| 41 4 | 1 | 2 | 66 | 414 | 85 | 7 | 8 | 1 | - | 2 | 20 | 5 | 105 | - | 59 | 105 | - | 1 | 250 | - | 1 | 17 | - | 1 | 2 | 25 | - | 642 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 6 10 | - | 163 | 294 | 186 | 24 | 20 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | - | 287 | 18 | 12 | 1 | - | 265 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | - | 109 | - | 564 | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 2 8 | 4 | 114 | 35 | 171 | 7 | 22 | 3 | 15 | - | 2 | 207 | 14 | 423 | - | 2 | 217 | 1 | - | 237 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 117 | - | 662 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 143 24 56 | - | 11 | 609 | 1076 | 727 | 59 | 1 | 10 | 21 | 52 | 2 | 636 | 527 | - | 1 | 184 | 1 | - | 7 | 62 | 2 | 16 | 2 | 23 | - | 3 | 388 | - | 4820 | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 2388 542 487 40 | 3476 | 5253 | 3300 | 6494 | 6771 | 41 | 2900 | 310 | 21 | 22 | 351 | 100 | 362 | 1126 | 6 | 16 | 56063 | 7173 | 6 | 15426 | 30 | 88 | 49 | 26 | 138 | 24345 | 276 | 627 | 190116 | 566 | 237 | 584 | 112 820 | 33 | 2006 | 5046 | 6 | 42821 |
| 13 2388 542 487 40 | 3476 | 5253 | 3300 | 6494 | 6771 | 41 | 2900 | 310 | 21 | 22 | 351 | 100 | 362 | 1126 | 6 | 16 | 56063 | 7173 | 6 | 15426 | 30 | 88 | 49 | 26 | 138 | 24345 | 276 | 627 | 190116 | 566 | 237 | 584 | 112 820 | 33 | 2006 | 5046 | 6 | 42821 |
| 13 2388 542 487 40 | 3476 | 5253 | 3300 | 6494 | 6771 | 41 | 2900 | 310 | 21 | 22 | 351 | 100 | 362 | 1126 | 6 | 16 | 56063 | 7173 | 6 | 15426 | 30 | 88 | 49 | 26 | 138 | 24345 | 276 | 627 | 190116 | 566 | 237 | 584 | 112 820 | 33 | 2006 | 5046 | 6 | 42821 |
| 13 2388 542 487 40 | 3476 | 5253 | 3300 | 6494 | 6771 | 41 | 2900 | 310 | 21 | 22 | 351 | 100 | 362 | 1126 | 6 | 16 | 56063 | 7173 | 6 | 15426 | 30 | 88 | 49 | 26 | 138 | 24345 | 276 | 627 | 190116 | 566 | 237 | 584 | 112 820 | 33 | 2006 | 5046 | 6 | 42821 |
| 13 2388 542 487 40 | 3476 | 5253 | 3300 | 6494 | 6771 | 41 | 2900 | 310 | 21 | 22 | 351 | 100 | 362 | 1126 | 6 | 16 | 56063 | 7173 | 6 | 15426 | 30 | 88 | 49 | 26 | 138 | 24345 | 276 | 627 | 190116 | 566 | 237 | 584 | 112 820 | 33 | 2006 | 5046 | 6 | 42821 |
| 13 2388 542 487 40 | 3476 | 5253 | 3300 | 6494 | 6771 | 41 | 2900 | 310 | 21 | 22 | 351 | 100 | 362 | 1126 | 6 | 16 | 56063 | 7173 | 6 | 15426 | 30 | 88 | 49 | 26 | 138 | 24345 | 276 | 627 | 190116 | 566 | 237 | 584 | 112 820 | 33 | 2006 | 5046 | 6 | 42821 |
| 13 2388 542 487 40 | 3476 | 5253 | 3300 | 6494 | 6771 | 41 | 2900 | 310 | 21 | 22 | 351 | 100 | 362 | 1126 | 6 | 16 | 56063 | 7173 | 6 | 15426 | 30 | 88 | 49 | 26 | 138 | 24345 | 276 | 627 | 190116 | 566 | 237 | 584 | 112 820 | 33 | 2006 | 5046 | 6 | 42821 |
| 13 2388 542 487 40 | 3476 | 5253 | 3300 | 6494 | 6771 | 41 | 2900 | 310 | 21 | 22 | 351 | 100 | 362 | 1126 | 6 | 16 | 56063 | 7173 | 6 | 15426 | 30 | 88 | 49 | 26 | 138 | 24345 | 276 | 627 | 190116 | 566 | 237 | 584 | 112 820 | 33 | 2006 | 5046 | 6 | 42821 |
| 13 2388 542 487 40 | 3476 | 5253 | 3300 | 6494 | 6771 | 41 | 2900 | 310 | 21 | 22 | 351 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 3. Species Found on Three or Fewer Counts and Unidentified Birds

Loon species: Spirit Lake (5), Rathbun (1)
 Pied-billed Grebe: Cedar Rapids (1)
 Eared Grebe: Rathbun (1)
 Double-crested Cormorant: Princeton (1), Davenport (3)
 Greater White-fronted Goose: De Soto N.W.R. (6), Jamaica (6)
 Ross' Goose: Shenandoah (1)
 Teal species: De Soto N.W.R. (1)
 Greater Scaup: Keokuk (5), Shenandoah (2)
 Oldsquaw: Keokuk (1)
 White-winged Scoter: Davenport (2)
 Duck species: De Soto N.W.R. (400)
 Osprey: Princeton (1, in Illinois)
 Golden Eagle: Decorah (1)
 Buteo species: De Soto N.W.R. (3), Eldora (1), Boone Co. (4)
 Ruffed Grouse: Decorah (3), Bremer Co. (1)
 Thayer's Gull: Des Moines (1)
 Glaucous Gull: Davenport (1), Keokuk (2), Des Moines (2)
 Gull species: North Linn (1)
 Snowy Owl: Burlington (1), Red Rock (1)
 Northern Saw-whet Owl: Cherokee (1), Cedar Falls (1), Boone Co. (2)
 Owl species: De Soto N.W.R. (1), Spirit Lake (1), Iowa City (2)
 Hummingbird species: Marshalltown (1)
 Brown Thrasher: Spirit Lake (2), Lamoni (1)
 Water Pipit: Rathbun (1)
 Yellow-rumped Warbler: Tristate (9, in Nebraska)
 Field Sparrow: Oakville (1), Marshalltown (1)
 Vesper Sparrow: Lost Nation (1)
 Lincoln's Sparrow: Davenport (1), Des Moines (1)
 Sparrow species: De Soto N.W.R. (2)
 Eastern Meadowlark: Muscatine (1)
 Western Meadowlark: Clinton (11), Muscatine (20), Tristate (26)
 Yellow-headed Blackbird: Davenport (1), Shenandoah (1)
 Great-tailed Grackle: Ames (1)
 Northern Oriole: Iowa City (1)
 Blackbird species: De Soto N.W.R. (12), Spirit Lake (17)
 White-winged Crossbill: Cedar Rapids (1), Red Rock (2)
 Common Redpoll: Dubuque (1), Davenport (6)

Belted Kingfisher (accidentally omitted from Table 2): Yellow River F. (1), Dubuque (4), Clinton (3), Princeton (6), Davenport (12), Muscatine (3), Oakville (2), Burlington (3), Keokuk (8), Sioux City (3), De Soto N.W.R. (1), Omaha (3), Shenandoah (3), Tristate (1), Decorah (7), Mason City (1), Swaledale (1), Cherokee (7), Westfield (2), Lost Nation (1), North Linn (7), Cedar Rapids (13), Iowa City (7), Amana (1), Cedar Falls (1), Marshalltown (1), Ames (2), Des Moines (16), Jamaica (3), Rathbun (3), Red Rock (1), Lucas (1), Total (128).

Mourning Dove is another cold-sensitive species that was well-represented; the 2,000 counted were twice the average for the last 10 years and a 10-year high. Rock Doves may have peaked in 1986, as the 8,753 reported this year was actually fewer than the previous year's total for the first time in several years.

This year 652 owls were located, or 8.0 per owling party-hour. This compares with 7.3 owls per owling party-hour in both 1986 and 1985. Thus, actual owl numbers may be increasing, possibly confirmed by the 345 Great Horned Owls, a 10-year high.

Among the woodpeckers, Red-bellieds continue to do well, reaching a 10-year high this year, indicating that this southeastern woodland species is consolidating its position in Iowa. Other woodpeckers were in average to above average numbers, except for Red-headed Woodpecker, which was low. The 181 Red-headed Woodpeckers compares poorly to the high of 1,771 in 1980. This year's acorn crop must have been dismal.

Blue Jay and American Crow were numerous, the former at a 10-year high, the latter far above average. The crow roost at Keokuk the last three years has boosted crow numbers by about 25,000 each year. Ten-year highs were recorded by Tufted Titmouse and Brown Creeper, the former interesting because its distribution in Iowa resembles that of Red-bellied Woodpecker. Does this tell us anything about the climate warming, or is the lack of prairie fires continuing to allow woodland to spread northwestward? Chickadees were also plentiful, but nuthatches only average. It was not a notable year for Red-breasted Nuthatch; the 92 reported were about average (The 10-year high was 164 in 1982). Winter and Carolina Wrens were much in evidence, especially the latter, which is definitely on the comeback trail. The 23 Carolina Wrens reported compare to 12 in 1986, and 0 to 4 found each year from 1979 to 1985. They were found in all regions of the state except the Northern Third, with as many as 4 at Omaha. The weather allowed good numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Eastern Bluebird to stay in Iowa, the latter at a 10-year high of 100 birds, significantly above the previous high of 64 in 1983. American Robin was again down; only 362 were found, compared to the 10-year average of 1,013. The wild fruit crop again this year appeared to be poor, although it supported average Cedar Waxwing numbers.

Shrikes were in average numbers, with identified Loggerheads surprisingly as far north as Cherokee, and Northernns as far south as Shenandoah, indicating that this year the two species overlapped more than usual. The last two years have been good for European Starling, the 56,963 counted (?) this year being a 10-year high. The 22,000 reported from Omaha (IPL Pond roost) helped greatly. Surprisingly in this mild winter, the only warblers found were the 9 Yellow-rumpeds at Arbor Lodge in Nebraska City, Nebraska, on the Tristate count.

Northern Cardinal, another southeast woodland species which has spread northwestward during this century, is doing well; the 7,172 reported were near the 10-year high (7,193 in 1985). Our most abundant sparrows, American Tree and Dark-eyed Junco, were plentiful, both above their 10-year averages, but not at 10-year high levels. Fox, Song, and Swamp sparrows, however, were at 10-year highs, apparently reflecting the availability of open water and the mild conditions. The 802 Songs was far above the previous 10-year high of 556 set in 1981. In contrast, *Zonotrichia* sparrows are still a concern, although numbers recovered a little for White-throated and Harris' sparrows. Both were only in average numbers, however. Far below average was White-crowned Sparrow, only 26 recorded statewide. The 10-year high was 154 in 1978. It was only an average year for field flocking birds--Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, and Horned Larks were not much in evidence.

Other than the Red-winged Blackbird roost at IPL Ponds, blackbirds were not particularly numerous, although the 237 Rusty Blackbirds was a 10-year high. There were somewhat more meadowlarks in the state than usual (616),

about twice the 10-year average of 367, but far below the peak of 1,337 in 1979. A further look at meadowlarks follows later in this summary.

It was an average to poor year for finches, with no incursions of the less-common species; however, 10-year highs were set by Pine Siskin and American Goldfinch, in the latter case not by a great margin. Pine Siskins have been abundant in the last three years; however, the 2,006 found this year were far above the 10-year high of 862. House Sparrows were about average, at 48,821, in case anyone is interested.

UNCOMMON SPECIES

These are listed in Table 3. Some interesting birds were discovered, but not the rarities of 1986. Only one species was new to the all-time Iowa CBC list--the hummingbird at Marshalltown. The documentation submitted with the count was insufficient to determine the species, but other documentation received for the Field Reports indicated that this bird was, somewhat surprisingly, a Ruby-throated. Rufous would be as likely or possibly more so at this time of year. If accepted by the Records Committee, the Eastern Meadowlark documented on the basis of plumage characters at Muscatine could be regarded as the first acceptable record for an Iowa CBC for the species (see discussion below).

Two species were found for only the second time on Iowa CBCs, a Thayer's Gull at Des Moines (pending Records Committee review), and a Great-tailed Grackle at Ames. No other rare gulls were found. Three species were represented by third records for Iowa CBCs. An Eared Grebe was well-documented at Rathbun, the only record in the last 10 years on an Iowa CBC. Common Loon was reported from two counts, Rathbun and Spirit Lake, but neither report critically eliminated the possibility of other loon species. In December, Pacific Loon is as likely, particularly in northern Iowa. A Northern Oriole was well-documented at Iowa City, only the third CBC record, all coming in the last 10 years.

As in 1986, a bad miss this year was Northern Mockingbird. This species has now been recorded in 7 of the last 10 years, absent the last two and in 1984. Is the population declining, or is it being missed due to less intense coverage in its southcentral Iowa stronghold? Merlin was also not found this year, the first time since 1981, even though it had been seen eight of the last nine years. Hermit Thrush has been seen seven of the last 10 years but missed the last two, despite the mild weather conditions. Bohemian Waxwing was also missed after being found six of the last 10 years. Brewer's Blackbird was not found for the first time since 1981.

REJECTIONS AND OTHER PROBLEMS

It would be nice to abolish this section, but new and interesting topics surface each year that warrant discussion. Deletions were fewer than last year, although three species were lost to the count because no documentation at all was provided. These were Prairie Falcon, Gray Catbird, and Varied Thrush. The latter was acceptably documented for the Field Reports. One documented species, Broad-winged Hawk, was referred to the Records Committee because this species should not occur in Iowa in winter and must be beyond doubt to be accepted. Other deletions involved species that were acceptably documented at other locations. Reports of Ross' Goose, Yellow-

rumped Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, and House Finch all suffered this fate, while a Northern Oriole was deleted because of a very sketchy second-hand documentation and reports of Osprey and House Finch were deleted due to unconvincing documentation. Two reports of Common Loon were relegated to Loon sp., for reasons discussed earlier.

The Eastern Meadowlark situation received some welcome attention this year on counts compiled by Pete Petersen. Pete contends that this species is surely of regular December occurrence along the Mississippi River in south-east Iowa, and submitted documentation for several birds on several counts in support of his contention. I accepted (pending Records Committee approval) only one report, of a bird Pete observed himself at Muscatine. The details involved a plumage description in some detail, but, having seen Barb Wilson's meadowlark study skins of both species, I have serious doubts that field identification can be based on plumage alone, without vocalization to confirm. Nevertheless, Pete pointed out several characters that all indicated Eastern Meadowlark. Other descriptions received were either second-hand or in insufficient detail for acceptance. I happily look forward to the results of Pete's offer to document these observations with specimens (road-kills, of course!).

The House Finch phenomenon is getting out of hand, with no fewer than nine counts reporting the species, although with much variation in level of documentation. I am very sympathetic to Petersen's plea for acceptance without detail, and believe it to be justified, at least in the Quad Cities area. Obviously this species is here to stay.

CORRECTIONS

Petersen points out that in the 1985-86 CBC summary no Ring-billed Gulls were recorded, but that indeed 6 were found on the Davenport count. He notes that this species has not been missed since 1951 on that count. Petersen also notes that the House Finch recorded on the Oakville count for 1985-86 was in fact in Iowa, while the Sora on the Muscatine count the same year was in fact in Illinois. Widrlechner points out that in the 1987 count for Boone Co., the summary table showed 31 Common Flickers and 17 Pileated Woodpeckers, but this should have read 31 Hairy Woodpeckers and 17 Common Flickers.

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IN MEMORIAM: EDWIN B. CROCKER

JAMES J. DINSMORE

Ed Crocker, a Life Member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, died on 27 December 1987 at age 72. A native of Delaware and a graduate of the University of Delaware, Ed moved to Storm Lake in 1947 where he worked for the Soil Conservation Service. For the next 40 years, he was active in a variety of conservation efforts.

Ed was familiar to members of the I.O.U. as he and his wife Virginia frequently attended I.O.U. meetings. His contributions to the Field Reports section helped fill a gap in coverage for his area of the state. For 20 years, Ed and Virginia have run a Breeding Bird Survey for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, again providing data from an area where birders are scarce. Ed was one of the strongest supporters of trying to build an endowment fund for the I.O.U. He considered education of young people a key to the preservation of birds. I got to know Ed through his work on the Constitution Committee, a committee we both served on during 1984-85. His considerable experience as an officer of other groups was a tremendous help in hammering out the new I.O.U. constitution that was accepted by the members in 1985. Ed always let you know his opinion, but despite my original impression that he was a bit gruff, I found that he really was a softy at heart and a fine person to work with.

Ed worked with a different group of conservationists than most I.O.U. members associated with. His job took him onto farms where he worked with landowners to encourage better soil conservation practices. He was a Fellow of the Soil Conservation Society of America, a group dedicated to improving land-use practices. He was active in the Izaak Walton League at local, state, and national levels and was elected Honorary President of the Iowa Division (nationally, the strongest division) in 1985. In 1978, the Iowa Chapter of The Wildlife Society presented him its Award of Merit in recognition of his longtime work for various conservation causes. Ed was not a "sit back and let others do it" type of person. He worked hard to ensure that habitat was preserved for birds and other wildlife and to educate people about natural resources. His work certainly made our state a better place to live.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50010

FIELD REPORTS--WINTER 1987-1988

W. ROSS SILCOCK

WEATHER

This winter was very similar to last, with rather mild conditions prevailing during most of the reporting period. The coldest weather, again like last year, was early in the period, causing many half-hardy types to leave the state. Only the northeast had seen significant snowfall by the end of 1987, but the northern third of the state suffered through rather severe storms in the early part of 1988. Open water was common in southern Iowa rather early in February or even in January in some locations, allowing waterfowl to move northward, especially into southern corners of the state.



GENERAL TRENDS

There were no major incursions of northern species, nor were there significant numbers of passerines observed. During the period, 141 species were found in Iowa, down from last year's 150.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

The two accidental species that were reported (Thayer's Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull) are being evaluated by the Records Committee. The two casual species that were documented were Black-legged Kittiwake and House Finch. The latter appears well on its way to becoming a regular nuisance!

The list of rare regular species was a little meatier, with several lingering species, early arrivals and just rare winter birds. Most unusual, in fact, extraordinary was the Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Marshalltown. The other species in these groups were Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Turkey Vulture, Prairie Falcon, Pectoral Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Franklin's Gull, Varied Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, Dickcissel, Chipping Sparrow, Northern Oriole, and Great-tailed Grackle. Ones that got away include a Black-billed Magpie reported without details and all three species of swan, none of which were effectively documented to species. Finally, one that probably should get away was Chukar.

SPECIES DATA

* = documented. Record dates are from Kent (*IBL* 58:7-14). CBC data is not included, except where useful in analysis of rarer species or for completeness.

Common Loon: Late loons were reported as Commons, but no indication was made in any case that they were not Pacifics. Singles were at Saylorville Res. on 18 Dec (SD), and Rathbun Res. on 19 Dec (CBC), while 5 were as far north as Spirit L. on 19 Dec (DCH).

Pied-billed Grebe: One wintered on Cedar L. in Cedar Rapids (PW).

Horned Grebe: Late individuals were at L. Macbride on 4 Dec (JF) and Saylorville Res. on 6 Dec (SD).

Eared Grebe: The only report was the CBC bird at Rathbun Res. on 17-19 Dec (*RLC), the 3rd latest record.

- Western Grebe:** The 3rd latest for this species was at Saylorville Res. on 1 Dec (*SD).
- American White Pelican:** The last date was 11 Dec at Saylorville Res. (SD). Kent (IBL 58:7) shows no December records, but there are two CBC records: the first, arguably not an Iowa record, was a bird that remained near the Cordova Nuclear Plant on the Mississippi R. from 21 Dec 1975 into Feb 1976 (IBL 46:12), and the other was at Bays Branch on 23 Dec 1981 (IBL 52:6,12).
- Double-crested Cormorant:** 1 imm. lingered "inland" at Saylorville Res. until 18 Dec (SD), while the last "coastal" birds were in the Le Claire-Bettendorf area on 1 Jan (PCP, FLM, THK). This species is rare in winter.
- Great Blue Heron:** 1 on 16 Jan near Boone (SD) was the only January record this year.
- Swan sp.:** One reported as a Tundra without details was at Saylorville Res. on 25 Dec. Another swan was at Le Claire on 15 Jan, identified as a Mute because of "orange on its bill", hardly conclusive. Finally, in this difficult group, there were two reports of Trumpeters. Four were on the Des Moines R. (exact location?) from early Jan through the period, but no identification details were provided. Two birds with orange patagial tags were on the Nishnabotna R. near Malvern, but no details accompanied this report either. Mute Swan is the expected species in winter, but Trumpeters are appearing each year from the captive flock near Minneapolis.
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** This species rarely winters in Iowa, so 37 in Fremont Co. on 30 Jan (SD, BB) were of interest. Early migrants were 10 at Burlington on 17-24 Feb (CF, JF), which were also interesting because of their eastern location.
- Canada Goose:** Birds of the *maxima* race, presumably derived from the numerous recently-established breeding flocks, are becoming rather common in winter. The largest wintering flock was 200-300 at Cedar L., many of which were "from the north per leg bands" (PW), although the 1,000 at Bays Branch on 20 Feb "probably wintered" (SD). Large migrating flocks included 1,900 flying south along the Des Moines R. on 31 Dec (SD, JJD) and 2,700 moving north on 28 Feb at Saylorville Res. (BE).
- Wood Duck:** 4 at Riverton on 30 Jan (SD, BB) and 1-3 at Cedar L. (PW) were presumably wintering. Two pairs departed from Brown's L., Woodbury Co., as late as 1 Jan (BH).
- Green-winged Teal:** Several wintered in Fremont Co., with 78 counted on 30 Jan (SD, BB). Most departed by 3 Jan (1 at Saylorville Res., SD) and returned beginning on 18 Feb (3 at Rathbun Res., RLC).
- American Black Duck:** Several wintering birds were reported, most notably 3 at Bays Branch (SD), 2 on 15 Jan at Saylorville Res. (SD), and 2 at Cedar L. (PW).
- Mallard:** As expected, peak wintering numbers were in Fremont Co., where 23,000 were found on 30 Jan (SD, BB).
- Northern Pintail:** Of scattered wintering birds reported, 2 in Story Co. (SD) were the farthest north and 44 in Fremont Co. on 30 Jan (SD, BB) were the largest number.
- Northern Shoveler:** 2 at Forney L. on 30 Jan (SD, BB) were rare for winter. The last on the Mississippi R. were at Montrose on 12 Dec (RCe), and first arrivals were 2 at Willow Sl. on 26 Feb (BLW).
- Gadwall:** 2 wintered at Bays Branch (SD), and up to 18 were in Fremont Co. on 30 Jan (SD, BB).
- American Wigeon:** Rare wintering birds included 1 at Big Creek S.P. (SD, BB), 3-4 at Bays Branch (SD), and up to 18 in Fremont Co. on 30 Jan (SD, BB). Also possibly wintering was 1 at Red Rock Res. on 6 Feb (SD, BB).
- Canvasback:** Peak number was an amazing 25,000 on the Mississippi R. at Montrose on 29 Dec; they disappeared in January, but "only" 800 returned on 31 Jan (RCe). Other January reports were 80 still at Lock and Dam 14 on 1 Jan (THK, FLM) and 4 on 3 Jan in Pottawattamie Co. (BPa, LPa).
- Redhead:** The only wintering bird reported was a female at Cedar L. (PW). The last fall bird was a male on 26 Dec at Snyder's Bend, Woodbury Co. (BH), and the first arrival was 1 on 20 Feb at Bays Branch (SD).
- Ring-necked Duck:** Late winter movement was noted with 60 on 31 Jan at Montrose with the large flock of Canvasbacks (RCe) and 1 at Riverton on 30 Jan (SD, BB). The last fall report was 1 at Iowa City from 15 Dec to 7 Jan (JF), and first spring bird was at L. Manawa on 25 Feb (BPa).
- Greater Scaup:** This species is hardy in winter, with 4 near Saylorville Dam on 3 Jan (SD, BE), and at least 15 at Montrose on 31 Jan with the Canvasbacks (RCe). The first spring birds were in the Saylorville area on 26 Feb (BE) and 27 Feb (SD).
- Lesser Scaup:** 300 were with the Canvasbacks at Montrose on 31 Jan (RCe), a very large number for winter. More unusual were 2 at Forney L. on 30 Jan (SD, BB) and 2 at Red Rock Res. on 6 Feb (SD, BB).

- Oldsquaw:** The usual few reports were received: 2 at Pleasant Creek S.P. on 5 Dec (JF), 2 females at Saylorville Res. on 15 Dec (SD), an adult male in winter plumage north of Burlington on 19 Dec (JF), and 1 on the Keokuk CBC on 2 Jan.
- White-winged Scoter:** The only scoters found were White-wingeds, with two reports: 2 at Davenport for the CBC on 20 Dec and 1 at Bettendorf on 22 Dec (PCP).
- Common Goldeneye:** Wintering birds were found in the southern part of the state as expected, although 82 were as far north as Cedar L. on 30 Jan (PW). The highest count was the 200 at Montrose on 21 Jan (RCe).
- Bufflehead:** None were reported in midwinter. The last was at Rathbun Res. on 1 Jan (RLC), and first were at Bays Branch (SD) and Forney L. (RR, DoR) on 27 Feb.
- Hooded Merganser:** Possibly wintering were singles on 16 Jan at Bettendorf (PCP) and 30 Jan at Forney L., the latter a female (SD). Peak count was 27 at Saylorville Res. on 2 Dec (SD).
- Common Merganser:** As expected, several wintered in southern Iowa, including high January counts of 4,000 at Rathbun Res. on 1 Jan (RLC) and 494 at Forney L. on 30 Jan (SD, BB).
- Red-breasted Merganser:** Except for Blue-winged Teal, this is the least likely of the regular duck species to be found in winter. None were found on CBCs, and none had returned by the end of the period. The last fall birds were 2 females on 23 Dec at Saylorville Res. (SD). Records of this species in late Dec, Jan, and early Feb should be documented.
- Ruddy Duck:** 2 were at Bettendorf on 31 Dec (PCP). This species is also rare in winter--Kent (IBL 58:9) shows no winter records.
- Turkey Vulture:** 1 was well-described at Rathbun Res. on 31 Jan (*DMC). This species is not expected in January, but on occasion may appear late in February as 1 did on 26 Feb at Ledges S.P. (SD).
- Bald Eagle:** Large numbers wintered, with record numbers found on CBCs and individuals reported statewide. The peak count along the Mississippi R. was 250 between Bettendorf and Clinton on 9 Jan (PCP). Up to 42 were at Forney L. in late Jan and early Feb (Robert Geiger fide WRS).
- Northern Harrier:** Numbers were up, most notably in January, when Harriers are usually scarce.
- Northern Goshawk:** 10 were found during the winter period, including four on CBCs. Both immatures and adults were found, but some were not acceptably detailed. Perhaps the most unusual was one "jumping on brush piles while Armstrongs were eating Christmas dinner." The first was on 6 Dec at Burlington (*RCe), and the last was on 13 Feb at Big Creek S.P. (*MPR).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** See CBC.
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** All reports were from the expected range along eastern Iowa river systems. Numbers appear to be increasing slowly from the lows of the late 1970s.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** Noted as abundant this winter by several observers, confirming near-record CBC totals.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** Numbers were higher than usual.
- Golden Eagle:** See CBC for 1 at Decorah; 1 imm. in Palo Alto Co. on 2-3 Feb (*CAK) was well-described.
- American Kestrel:** This species was plentiful throughout the period, as indicated by many observers.
- Merlin:** 4 were reported, 3 with details. A female or immature was in Boone Co. on 30 Dec (*SD) and a male was north of Burlington on 19-20 Feb (*JF,CF); 1 reported in downtown Des Moines on 17-26 Feb (*PM) may have been a Peregrine, as it was described as being almost as large as a pigeon, gray-backed, and in unusual habitat for a Merlin.
- Peregrine Falcon:** No reports, but see above.
- Prairie Falcon:** Two reports: 1 was in Palo Alto Co. during the last week of January and first week of February, where it obligingly roosted in a barn and was seen by several observers (*JC, *RID, *CAK, *THK); and 1 at Red Rock Res. on 6 Feb (*SD) was unusually far south-east.
- Gray Partridge:** This species continues its spread southward, with reports as far southeast as Des Moines Co., where 5 were seen 13 Feb (CF). It is now well-established in rural areas around Cedar Rapids, where 10 were seen near Alburnett on 30 Dec (PW).
- Chukar:** 1 was near Bettendorf from Oct through the period (Joanne Mercer fide PCP). Occasional reports of this species from Scott Co. are probably of feral birds, as there is no established population of this species in Iowa.
- Ring-necked Pheasant:** The large numbers seen in NW Iowa may be a benefit of the farm set-aside program (THK, RVH, JC).

- Ruffed Grouse:** Numbers appear near a cyclic low. See CBC. An optimistic report was of an establishing population in S Palo Alto Co., where a brood was raised in 1987 and birds have been present 3 years (RVH). Where are the trees, Ron?
- Wild Turkey:** The success story continues, as numbers expand rapidly statewide. Increased numbers were noted along the Wapsipinicon and Cedar Rivers (PW).
- Northern Bobwhite:** No reports; see CBC.
- American Coot:** 1 in Polk Co. on 16 Jan (DT) and 2 in Iowa City on 1 Jan (THK, FLM) were possibly attempting to overwinter.
- Killdeer:** Rare in midwinter, and probably wintering, were 1 at Ames near the Iowa State University generating plant on 10 Jan (CF) and 1 at Cone Marsh 24 Jan (THK). Late fall birds were 3 at Springbrook S.P. on 3 Jan (EIA, EuA), and the first for spring were those at Keokuk on 22 Feb (RCe).
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** 1 at Big Creek S.P. through 1 Dec (*SD) was a record late bird by 2 days.
- Common Snipe:** Several wintered at widely separated locations. Farthest north were 1 at Slater (SD, BB, JJD) and 2 at Newton on 18 Jan (GJB).
- American Woodcock:** 1 flushed near Bronson, Woodbury Co., on 20 Dec (*DAW) is a record late date.
- Franklin's Gull:** Two immatures at Saylorville Res. on 2 Dec (*SD) tied the 3rd latest date. This species and the next rarely linger late in Iowa.
- Bonaparte's Gull:** A new record late date by 5 days was set by an adult at Keokuk on 31 Dec (*RCe). Other late birds were at Saylorville Res., where 123 were present on 9 Dec and 28 remained until 15 Dec (SD).
- Ring-billed Gull:** Wintering birds were rather scarce, with few early January records and none for mid-month. Notable were 20 at Saylorville Res. on 1 Jan (BE), 1 at Forney L. on 30 Jan (SD, BB), and 3 at Cedar L. on 30 Jan (PW). The peak fall count was the 13,000 at Saylorville Res. on 11 Dec (SD). Large returning flocks included 1,000 on 27 Feb at Keokuk (RCe) and 238 the same day at Red Rock Res. (SD).
- Herring Gull:** As with Ring-billeds, none were reported in mid-January, but 80 appeared at Keokuk on 30 Jan (RCe), and 1 was at Forney L. on 30 Jan (SD, BB). The peak fall count was 2,700 at Saylorville Res. on 23-24 Dec (SD), and the first notable spring influx was 1,000 at Keokuk 27 Feb (RCe).
- Thayer's Gull:** At least 3 appeared during the period, all in late fall. Two first-winter birds were at Saylorville Res. 2-30 Dec (*SD, mob), including the Des Moines CBC. Single first-winter birds were documented on three dates along the Mississippi R. in Scott Co.: 1 Jan (*THK), 5 Feb (*SD, *BPr, *ASF), and 9 Feb (*BPr, *SD).
- Glaucous Gull:** The expected few sightings were made along the Mississippi R. and on the large reservoirs during late fall. Earliest was a second-year bird at Saylorville Res. on 2 Dec (SD), and the last were 1-2 "immatures" at Keokuk on 2 Jan (RCe).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** The Records committee is examining a report.
- Black-legged Kittiwake:** Two first-winter birds at Saylorville Res. on 1-15 Dec (*SD, *BPr, *BE) were the only reports. The last date is the 3rd latest.
- Common Barn-Owl:** 1 was seen on 8 Dec near Sergeant Bluff not far from the Eleanor Kuzele farm, the site of a captive release program (DET).
- Snowy Owl:** 8 were reported, a normal year for this species. Dates ranged from 12 Dec at Burlington (CF) to 10 Feb near Percival, Fremont Co. (Robert Geiger, fide WRS).
- Barred Owl:** Two pairs out of 6 birds seen at dusk on 27 Feb at Red Rock Res. were copulating (DJC).
- Long-eared Owl:** 31 were reported, with high count of 7 at Big Creek S.P. (SD) and Bacon Creek Park, Woodbury Co. (ARH).
- Short-eared Owl:** 12 were reported, fewer than usual and surprising for such an open winter.
- Northern Saw-Whet Owl:** 25 were reported, better than usual, as observers are learning how to find them. The high count was 11 at several locations in Boone Co. through the period (SD). The first was at Grammer Grove on 5 Dec (MPr, BPr).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** A surprising record was of 1 at a Marshalltown feeder (*BPr). This bird appeared on 21 Dec, was caught in a mist net at the end of Dec, transferred to a greenhouse for protection from the weather, but died when it flew into the glass at the end of Jan (BPr). The previous late date was 27 Nov. Is the specimen still available?
- Pileated Woodpecker:** 1 seen and heard in NE Pocahontas Co. (RVH) was way out of range and 1 at Otter Creek M. (NAK) was marginally out of range.
- Horned Lark:** While not a good year for reports of this species, a sizeable number of 1,000 were in Palo Alto and nearby counties on 7 Feb (THK).
- Black-billed Magpie:** An undocumented report was received.

Carolina Wren: This species is doing well. At least 14 were reported, with a further 23 counted on CBCs. Only about 3 seem to be duplicate records, indicating a total of about 34 individuals for the period.

Eastern Bluebird: 10 at Snyder's Bend on 26 Dec (BH) were unusually far north for this scarce winter species. All January reports were from southern Iowa.

Varied Thrush: A male at an Urbandale feeder from 14 Dec through at least 13 Feb (*SD, *BPr) was seen by many. At least one has settled in to an Iowa feeder each of the last few years.

American Robin: Few remained in Iowa--the high count (excluding CBCs) was only 15 at Clinton on 16 Feb (JG). It appears the wild fruit crop was poor for the second year in a row.

Northern Mockingbird: The only report was 1 at Pleasant Valley on 13 Jan (Amy Greenwood fide PCP). None were found on CBCs, and few have been reported the last two winters.

Brown Thrasher: Singles wintered as far north as Ames and Nevada (SD). A few winter each year, usually in southern Iowa.

Cedar Waxwing: It was only an average year, with high count of 75 at Rathbun Res. on 6 Dec (RLC).

Bohemian waxwing: 1 was at Big Creek S.P. on 20 Feb (*DT).

Northern Shrike: At least 4 were at Big Creek S.P. through the period (SD). The only documented reports from southern Iowa were CBC birds. One raided the Armstrongs' feeders in Booneville.

Loggerhead Shrike: 1 at Saylorville Res. on 24 Jan (*BE) was the most northerly documented report.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: A female-plumaged bird was at an Indianola feeder from 23 Jan through 20 Feb (JSi). January records are unusual.

Dickcissel: 1 appeared at a Glenwood feeder and stayed until 3 Jan (DoR). It reappeared on 2 Feb. This is only the 2nd winter record for Iowa. The latest fall date is 26 November.



Dickcissel, Glenwood, 1 Jan 1988. Photo by B. J. Rose

Rufous-sided Towhee: Of 6 reported, only one was identified by race--a spotted towhee at Willow Sl. on 27 Feb (DoR, RR). This is the expected wintering race.

Chipping Sparrow: Apparently the first documented winter record for Iowa was 1 caught and measured on 9 Feb in Linn Co. An excellent description was provided (*RB). There are no previous records between 29 Dec and 2 Apr.

Savannah Sparrow: Unfortunately, what might have been the first February record for Iowa went undocumented.

Fox Sparrow: One wintered at a Des Moines feeder (DT, mob), an unusual occurrence.

Lincoln's Sparrow: See CBC.

Swamp Sparrow: More were found than usual due to the open water in many locations; 1 at Saylorville Res. 24 Jan (BE) was the farthest north.

Harris' Sparrow: The only reports were from eastern and central Iowa, where this species has been found regularly the past few winters. Up to 9 were at Coralville Res. during the period (JF), and 4 wintered at Booneville (EIA, EuA). Barb Wilson noted that while this species wintered on her farm in Mills Co. from 1977 to 1986, none were there the last two winters.

Lapland Longspur: This was a poor longspur year. The high count was 500 in Linn Co. on 13 Feb (Keith Carris fide PW).

Snow Bunting: The high was a respectable 1,200 in Wright Co. on 13 Jan (SD, BB), but it was only an average year overall. None were found before 1 Jan when 100 were in Marshall Co. (MJH), or after 7 Feb when 250 were in Palo Alto and nearby counties (THK).

Red-winged Blackbird: A large concentration for midwinter was 10,000 in Fremont Co. on 30 Jan (SD, BB). More usual were 8,000 returning migrants at Keokuk on 26 Feb (RCe). The largest roost was at IPL Ponds, where at least 150,000 were found on 26 Dec (LPa, WRS). Unusually far north were 2 at a Larchwood feeder on 27 Jan (DCH).

Eastern Meadowlark: See CBC discussion. There was only one report apart from CBCs, but no details were provided, leaving the record conjectural. Acceptance of this species as a winter visitor in Iowa requires, in my opinion, rigorous proof. Assumptions are dangerous. Until proven otherwise, I believe that we should assume that Easterns leave Iowa during January and early February. Records based on song and call notes or specimens from road-kills are eagerly sought as evidence for occurrence of Easterns in winter. Barb Wilson has demonstrated clearly that identification by plumage characters in winter is inconclusive at best.

Western Meadowlark: The earliest singing spring birds were heard on 18 Feb near Cedar Rapids (PW). I suspect that a few days after this time Easterns return to Iowa. Observers should report the first songs or calls for each species in order to document their presence in early spring.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: A late male was at Brown's L. on 2 Jan (JP). See also CBC.

Rusty Blackbird: A male at Brown's L. on 2 Jan and 20 in Palo Alto Co. on 30 Jan (THK, FLM) are a bit unusual for mid-winter, especially in northern Iowa.

Brewer's Blackbird: None were reported this winter, the first time in several years.

Great-tailed Grackle: The Ames CBC bird found on 19 Dec is the latest record. Another report was undocumented.

Common Grackle: Unusual reports were of 1 with a white head at Iowa City on 21 Dec (JF), and a normal (?) individual at a Glenwood feeder on 2-6 Jan, when it froze to death (DoR).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Mid-January reports are rare, especially of flocks. Thus the 110 in Iowa City on 10 Jan (TJS) was noteworthy.

Northern Oriole: 1 successfully wintered, feeding on jelly at an Iowa City feeder ("TJS), and another was documented at Davenport on 13 Dec ("PCP). Both were males of the expected "Baltimore" race. The Iowa City bird was a first-year bird and the Davenport bird was an adult. In recent years the provision of fruit at feeders has allowed occasional birds to linger into winter and occasionally survive the period.

House Finch: The range and population explosion continues apace. Apart from the 33 reported on CBCs at 7 locations statewide, noteworthy additional reports included the 15 in Cedar Rapids (PW) and an adult female at a Council Bluffs feeder, one of very few western Iowa records ("DaS). Petersen reports that about 12 of his bird-feeding customers in the Quad Cities area have House Finches at their feeders, indicating that this is the population center for Iowa.

Red Crossbill: This was an off-year for crossbills, at least in Iowa, but several were reported. All reports were during a very short period at the end of February: 24 at Aspen Grove Cemetery in Burlington on 18-25 Feb (RCE, JF, CF), 5 at Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines on 27 Feb (DT, EIA, EuA), 2 in Hardin Co. on 27 Feb (MPr), and a female on 26 Feb at Clinton (JG).

White-winged Crossbill: A female at a Pella feeder seen by many from 28 Jan through 27 Feb was the only report besides the 3 found on CBCs.

Common Redpoll: Numbers were low, only 7 birds at 2 CBC locations and 30 others were reported. The first were 6 at Big Creek S.P. on 13 Jan (SD).

American Goldfinch: Unusual was the albino photographed near Glenwood (DoR).

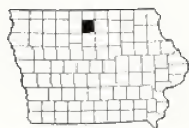
Evening Grosbeak: Very few occurred in Iowa this winter, with none on CBCs and only two other reports of 21 birds: 20 in Boone Co. on 10 Feb (Betty Bennett fide SL) and 1 at a Pleasantville feeder 25 Jan (EIA, EuA).

CONTRIBUTORS

Eloise Armstrong (Booneville); Eugene Armstrong (Booneville); Bart Ballard (Ames); Robert Bradley (Cedar Rapids); Gordon J. Brand (Newton); Judith Carlson (Laurens); Robert Cecil (Keokuk); David J. Conrads (Cedar Falls); Dorothy M. Cornett (Centerville); Raymond L. Cummins (Centerville); Rita DeWall (Pocahontas); James J. Dinsmore (Ames); Steve Dinsmore (Ames); Bery Engebretsen (Johnston); Andrew S. Fix (Ames); Charles Fuller (Burlington); James Fuller (Iowa City); Jacqueline Gardner (Clinton); Ronald V. Harms (Laurens); Douglas C. Harr (Larchwood); Mary Jo Hartogh (Elma); Art R. Huser (Sioux City); Bill Huser (South Sioux City, NE); Thomas H. Kent (Iowa City); Calvin A. Knight (Iowa City); Sharon Laub (Rippey); Paul Martsching (Ames); Francis L. Moore (Waterloo); Babs Padelford (Bellevue, NE); Loren Padelford (Bellevue NE); Peter C. Petersen (Davenport); Jerry Probst (Sioux City); Beth Proescholdt (Liscomb); Mark Proescholdt (Liscomb); Douglas Rose (Glenwood); Roger Rose (Glenwood); W. Ross Silcock (Taber); Jim Sinclair (Indianola); David Starr (Council Bluffs); Thomas J. Staudt (Iowa City); Dennis Thompson (Des Moines); Douglas A. Wheelock (Sioux City); Pete Wickham (Cedar Rapids); and Barbara L. Wilson (Hastings).

ANCIENT MURRELET AT CRYSTAL LAKE

JAMES L. HANSEN



I first saw the bird at about 10:30 a.m. on 28 October 1987 at Crystal Lake, Hancock County, as I motored in a small boat from one part of the lake to another. I caught only a glimpse of it and noted only a black and white head as it dived within 30 feet of the front of the boat. I backed off and circled slowly for a couple of minutes, but was unable to sight it again. About 1:00 p.m., I saw the bird again as I slowly motored toward a mixed flock of Surf and White-winged scoters. It dived one time when I apparently approached too close. It called one time, a fairly loud "krrreeep". I watched the bird for 30 minutes and saw it from front, back, and both sides. It never flew and was still there when I left.

The bird was about the size of a Pied-billed Grebe, but chunkier, with a shorter neck. The head, back of the neck, and throat were black. The white of the breast extended up the sides of the head. The pale-pink, chicken-like bill was especially apparent when the bird looked directly at me. The back was gray, with a few darker, curved lines on each side of the back. The black on the throat extended down farther than shown in *A Guide to Identification Birds of North America* (Robbins et al), but was similar to that shown in *Field Guide to Birds of North America* (National Geographic Society).

No one else saw the bird, although Curt Nelson and I looked for it the next day. Pete Petersen and Steve Dinsmore also made an extensive search for the bird.

103 S. 17th St., Clear Lake, IA 50428

Editor's Note: This record, which was accepted by the Records Committee, is a first for Iowa. Ancient Murrelet breeds along the northern edge of the Pacific Ocean and winters south along the coast to California and Japan. Unlike other alcids, Ancient Murrelet is an expected inland vagrant with records from Alberta (3), Montana (5), Idaho, Utah, Nevada (3), Manitoba, Wyoming, Colorado (2), New Mexico, Nebraska, Minnesota (6), Wisconsin (5), Illinois (2), Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Louisiana. Of 23 dates that I found, 11 were from November, 4 from October, 3 from March, 2 from December, and 1 each from February, May, and July. Many of the records are of birds found dead or exhausted, sometimes in strange locations such as along highways or in residential areas. THK.

DOUBLE BROODING BY WORM-EATING WARBLER IN LEE COUNTY

ROBERT CECIL



Worm-eating Warbler is a rare summer resident in Iowa, and, until recently, a species whose only nesting records were from before the turn of the century. Recently, nesting evidence has been detected annually at the Croton Unit of Shimek State Forest, about 3 miles west of the unincorporated community of Argyle in westcentral Lee County.

I kept records of nesting and brooding activities observed from 1984 through 1987. Records of singing males are not included in this report—singing males may be found throughout the summer. My observations indicate annual breeding and suggest double brooding.

Twelve observations indicating breeding were made during the four years. All but two involve sightings that constitute confirmation of breeding, according to criteria set for the Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas project. The others are of a presumed family group (21 July 1986), and a bird with a short tail (21 July 1984). On six occasions between 7 June and 29 June, adult Worm-eating Warblers were observed feeding recently fledged, dependent young. Of these, three involved young Brown-headed Cowbirds, and three involved young Worm-eating Warblers. A seventh sighting involved an adult carrying nesting material to the ground on 20 June 1985.

While no nesting activities were observed between 29 June and 12 July, on three occasions between 12 July and 19 July adult Worm-eating Warblers were again observed feeding young. Two of these feedings involved young Brown-headed Cowbirds, and one a young Worm-eating Warbler.

The approximate nesting cycle from beginning of incubation to the departure of independent young is about 25 days for most warblers (Bent 1953, Harrison 1978). Given the number of days between sightings of adults feeding young (42 days in 1987, 36 days in 1985), there is a strong suggestion of double brooding by this species. Unfortunately, birds were not marked or individually identifiable, so confirmation was not possible. Elsewhere, double brooding by at least one warbler, Prairie Warbler, has been confirmed (Nolan 1978), and it may occur with others of this group.

One disturbing aspect of these observations was the frequency of brood parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird, which is abundant in the study area. It has also parasitized several other rare area nesters, including Carolina Wren, Cerulean Warbler, and Blue Grosbeak.

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Harrison, C. 1978. A Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds. Brattleboro, VT: Stephen Greene Press.
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327 S. 6th., Keokuk, IA 52632

REVIEW

A FIELD LIST OF BIRDS OF THE QUAD-CITY REGION. Third Edition.

Peter C. Petersen. Davenport: Quad-City Audubon Society. 1987. 27 pp. Paperbound \$1.25.

REVIEWED BY JAMES J. DINSMORE

This third edition of a small booklet first published in 1961, is similar to earlier versions. The contents include a short introduction, brief descriptions of 31 birding areas including 15 in Iowa and 3 on the Iowa-Illinois border, and a short section on birding equipment and field guides. A highway map of the region is conveniently placed in the center of the booklet. The 31 birding areas are marked on the map, but they are hard to pick out. Occurrence and abundance information are given for 328 species that have been reported for the Quad City area. A letter code indicates the typical habitat for each species, and a horizontal bar gives the dates that it is expected to occur in the area. For each species, the width of the bar indicates relative abundance and parentheses demarcate the breeding season. The strength of this system is its ease of use, but much detail is lost. Still, the booklet seems to accomplish its purpose of providing birders a quick guide to what species they can expect to see and when. It is hard to imagine a serious birder in the Quad Cities who would not want to have a copy.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50010

I.O.U. BUSINESS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Williamsburg, 7 November 1987, 10:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

ANN M. BARKER

Members Present: Jim Dinsmore (presiding), Eugene Armstrong, Ann Barker, Carl Bendorf, Beth Brown, Bob Cecil, Francis Moore, Jim Sinclair, Carol Thompson. *Others Present:* Eloise Armstrong.

Minutes: The minutes of 30 May 1987 were approved as published in *Iowa Bird Life*.

Treasurer's Report: Francis Moore reported that current assets are \$13,653.96, with checking account balance of about \$2,100.00. For the year 1987, revenues will exceed expenses.

Committee Reports

Publications: Dinsmore stated that the committee will meet on 14 November at the fall meeting and a report will be made to the Board on 15 November. The Board discussed format changes in *Iowa Bird Life* and content of both publications.

Library/Historical: Dinsmore stated that the committee has not met and is planning to meet later this year.

Membership: Moore reported that the committee has not met since the spring meeting. A date will be set next week for a future meeting. The new membership brochure has been distributed to members and so far has brought in about twenty new members. This should be an effective membership tool. Dinsmore commented that he would like to see the committee: (a) set up a location with membership information at the fall meeting, and (b) meet sometime before the spring meeting to establish a short and long term plan for encouraging membership.

Records: Tom Kent reported via Dinsmore that records have been recently published in *Iowa Bird Life*. A meeting is planned for next week. The possibility of getting more involved in education will be discussed at next week's meeting.

Nominating: Dinsmore appointed Ray Cummins, Carl Bendorf, and Jim Fuller to the committee. It was moved (Armstrong, seconded by Moore) to approve the appointments. Passed.

Big Day: The committee composed of Ray Cummins, Tom Kent, and Eugene Armstrong will probably be reappointed by Dinsmore.

Education: Rick Hollis reported via Dinsmore that he did not wish to continue to chair the committee, but is willing to serve on it. Dinsmore will appoint Linda Zalatel as chair.

Breeding Bird Atlas: The committee composed of Carol Thompson, John Fleckenstein, and Barb Wilson will meet at the fall meeting next week. Dinsmore will reappoint the same members. Thompson reported that approximately 100 census blocks have been completed. This is about one-ninth of the total number. Approximately one-third of the blocks have some data. A recent survey sent to county coordinators elicited a good response; only about half felt that they could complete the project in the allotted time. Additional personnel and considerable financial support are badly needed. Department of Natural Resources employees have been asked to do much of the census work, but many areas are still not adequately covered. Publication costs are estimated at \$10,000 to \$70,000. The committee would like I.O.U. to do some large scale fund raising. It was the consensus of the Board that we should proceed with approaching outside groups for funding publication of the report.

Old Business

Dinsmore circulated a copy of a revised logo for the I.O.U. showing a slightly larger goldfinch on an outline of the state and with a new thistle. After discussion, it was moved (Barker, seconded by Armstrong) that we recommend approval of the revised logo. Passed.

New Business

Next week's fall meeting is set for the 4-H camp near Luther. The spring 1988 meeting will be in Mason City. Curt Nelson reported via Dinsmore that plans are proceeding well. All major arrangements, including the facilities, have been made. The fall 1988 meeting location was discussed. Dinsmore has received one inquiry and will follow up on it. Several possible locations for future meetings were mentioned. Thompson requested ideas for programs from the Board. Bendorf reported that the spring 1990 meeting, a joint meeting with the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, will be scheduled for some time in May. He has sent several suggestions to the planning committee. The committee has not met, but planning is well under way.

A recent change in the Birdline involved moving it from Amana to Keokuk with Bob Cecil now in charge. Cecil reported that the phone is set up at his house. The I.O.U. purchased the machine that it had been renting. The new arrangement has been working very well so far, but funds are short. Costs are now in the neighborhood of \$16.00 to \$18.00 per month. A notice for donations will be published in the next newsletter.

Dinsmore proposed a revision of the heading on I.O.U. stationery that involves leaving off the names of the officers. The heading will include only the logo and Birdline number. The Board agreed.

A preliminary discussion of budget for 1988 was held. Total projected income is \$7,700.00 without contributions. For the current year, an excess of revenues over expenses is estimated at \$2,100. Final figures will be presented at the next Board meeting for approval. It was moved (Bendorf, seconded by Armstrong) to give preliminary approval to the budget. Passed.

A research proposal was received from Dan Varland, an Iowa State University Ph.D. student, requesting \$300.00 to study kestrels in the post-fledgling stage using radio transmitters. The proposal was discussed in conjunction with a discussion of Breeding Bird Atlas funding. It was moved (Moore, seconded by Cecil) to allocate \$300.00 for the Breeding Bird Atlas project and \$100.00 for the Varland research proposal. Passed.

The question of local chapter affiliation with the I.O.U. was brought up. An inquiry was received from a county organization asking to be affiliated with the I.O.U. After discussion, the Board agreed that there has been no precedent for this. There is currently no policy or mechanism for affiliation. The Board was not in favor of establishing affiliations at this time.

Dinsmore received a letter requesting the I.O.U. to take a stand on the Brush Creek issue. The ensuing discussion addressed the question of whether to bring it up to the full membership at next week's fall meeting. Although some members felt a stand should be taken, a straw poll indicated that the majority did not. Historically, the I.O.U. has not been involved in political environmental issues such as this.

Dinsmore indicated that a short meeting will be held on Sunday, November 15, after lunch and compilation of the bird list.

FALL BUSINESS MEETING

Luther, 14 November 1988, 3:40 to 4:30 p.m.

ANN M. BARKER, SECRETARY

Presiding: Jim Dinsmore, President

Minutes: The minutes of the Spring Meeting were approved as published.

Reports

Treasurer: Francis Moore reported that total funds currently available are approximately \$13,600.00. Membership renewals are being received for 1988. For 1987, there will be an excess of revenues over expenses of approximately \$2,100.00. The funds for the Birdline are low and donations are needed. Tom Kent felt that more financial information is necessary. He would like to see a chart of accounts so that the membership might know how much is in each fund.

Records Committee: The committee will meet today.

Publications: The committee met this morning and approved budget proposals and set up a mechanism for book reviews in *Iowa Bird Life*. The committee also discussed library exchanges, publication of feeder surveys, and changes in *Iowa Bird Life*.

Membership Committee: Francis Moore reported that the committee has not met since spring. New brochures have been sent to members, and another printing will be needed soon. The committee will meet in February or March. Current membership is 465.

Library/Historical Committee: No report.

Nominating Committee: Appointments to this committee are Ray Cummins (chair), Jim Fuller, and Carl Bendorf.

Education Committee: Linda Zalatel will chair the committee.

Breeding Bird Atlas Committee: The committee, composed of John Fleckenstein, Carol Thompson, and Barb Wilson, met yesterday. Thompson reported that 100 blocks have been completed and 250 are partially done. The committee discussed ways to encourage participation. New atlas cards need to be printed, but funding is short. The I.O.U. Board of Directors appropriated \$300.00 and authorized the committee to solicit funds from outside sources. Wilson reminded us that nesting for a species may be confirmed even at this time of year by finding

nests. Participants should check their blocks in late winter and early spring for nesting owls and woodcock.

Big Day Committee: The committee will meet soon to set up the project for 1988.

Old Business

A revised copy of the I.O.U. logo was shown. At the spring meeting, action on the logo was tabled due to dissatisfaction with the thistle. The revision, done by artist Jody Griffith of Iowa City, shows a larger goldfinch on an outline of Iowa and the revised thistle. It was moved (Barb Wilson, seconded by Jim Sinclair) to accept the revised logo (passed unanimously). Carl Bendorf felt that we should have definite specifications on how the logo will be used.

New Business

Upcoming Meetings: The spring 1988 meeting is set for Mason City on the weekend of 20-22 May. Curt Nelson is in charge of arrangements. Facilities available will be Northern Iowa Area Community College and Lime Creek Nature Center. The fall 1988 meeting is proposed for Fort Dodge. Bill Cunningham will provide a proposal to the Board by its next meeting. The spring 1990 meeting will be a three-state joint meeting with the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union at La Crosse, Wisconsin. Carl Bendorf is our representative to the planning committee. Bendorf reported that planning is going well, and he has sent several planning suggestions. The meeting will be held the third or fourth weekend of May.

A recent change in the Birdline involved moving it from Amana to Keokuk with Bob Cecil in charge. Cecil reported that the phone has been set up at his house and the new number is 542-FLOX. The I.O.U. purchased the machine that it had been renting. Dinsmore expressed the membership's appreciation to Rick Hollis, who started the Birdline, and to Carl Bendorf, who has done an outstanding job of continuing it. This was followed by a hearty round of applause.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Luther, 14 November, 12:20 to 12:45 p.m.

ANN M. BARKER, SECRETARY

Members Present: Jim Dinsmore (presiding), Eugene Armstrong, Ann Barker, Carl Bendorf, Beth Brown, Bob Cecil, Francis Moore, Jim Sinclair, Carol Thompson.

Minutes: The minutes of 7 November 1987 were approved as circulated with one correction.

Committee Reports

Records Committee: Steve Dinsmore was nominated for appointment to the committee to fill the expiring term currently held by Barb Wilson. It was moved (Barker, seconded by Thompson) to approve the appointment (passed).

Publications Committee: The committee met yesterday. There were no modifications to the budget which will need to be approved at the next Board meeting.

Old Business

It was moved (Armstrong, seconded by Moore) to authorize Tom Kent to pay \$60.00 to artist Jody Griffith for work on the logo (passed).

Bill Cunningham further discussed holding the fall 1988 meeting at Fort Dodge with the local Sierra Club as host. Cunningham will present a proposal by the next Board meeting. Two possible sites for the spring 1989 meeting were discussed.

New Business

Armstrong discussed with Phyllis Harris the possibility of the I.O.U. selling T-shirts with the logo imprinted on them. A photo transfer could be made of the logo, which could then be used for stationary, the journal, and other purposes. No action was taken.

The possibility of publishing a membership list with addresses was discussed.

The next Board meeting will be in late February or early March.